

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed April 22, 2005. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 12, and 20 will have been amended, Claims 4, 15, and 23 will have been canceled, and Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-22, 24, and 25 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 8, 11-14, and 19-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,612,681 to Hasegawa et al. (Hasegawa). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As further set forth below, the Examiner has indicated the allowability of the subject matter introduced in Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 18 if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, and 12 to include the subject matter introduced in objected to dependent Claims 4 and 15, respectively. As such, independent Claims 1 and 12 are distinguished over the prior art reference of Hasegawa. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 19, which depend from either of Claims 1 and 12, are likewise distinguished over Hasegawa.

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter introduced by dependent Claim 23, which includes “correcting a discrepancy in array of data, when information data is acquired, caused by a discrepancy in information reading direction between the left-to-right and right-to-left directions.” Such language is commensurate with the subject

matter introduced in objected to original dependent Claims 4 and 15, which has now been introduced into respective independent Claims 1 and 12. As such, independent Claim 20 is distinguished over the prior art reference of Hasegawa. Dependent Claims 21, 22, 24, and 25, which depend from Claim 20, are likewise distinguished over Hasegawa.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Dependent Claims 5 and 16, which depend from Claims 1 and 12, are distinguished over Hasegawa for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 12 above. Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully submit that Hasegawa includes no teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would teach, suggest, or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Hasegawa, as suggested by the Examiner, and arrive at the subject matter recited therein. As such, dependent Claims 5 and 16 are distinguished over the prior art reference of Hasegawa.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 17, and 18 “as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Applicants concur with the Examiner’s findings.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-22, 24, and 25 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4773.

Respectfully submitted,
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